

## Patent Claims

1. A method for monitoring an application (AP1, AP2,  
5 AP3) in a packet-switching network (NW),  
with the state of the application (AP1, AP2, AP3) being  
recorded by means of a monitoring instant (MC) and  
being transmitted to a Presence Application (PA) which  
indicates and/or further processes the state,  
10 characterized  
in that the application (AP1, AP2, AP3) is registered  
by means of the monitoring instant (MC) as a first  
communication partner in a list of communication  
partners which can be accessed in the network,  
15 in that the Presence Application (PA) is registered in  
the list as a second communication partner which  
monitors the first communication partner, and  
in that the state and/or state changes of the  
application (AP1, AP2, AP3) is or are transmitted to  
20 the Presence Application (PA) as a characteristic which  
is associated with the first communication partner, or  
as a message which is transmitted from the first  
communication partner,  
with the monitoring being carried out on the basis of  
25 the characteristic or of the message.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1,  
characterized in that  
control instructions for controlling the application  
30 (AP1, AP2, AP3) are transmitted from the Presence  
Application (PA) to the monitoring instant (MC).

3. The method as claimed in one of the preceding  
claims,  
35 characterized in that  
a presence/instant messaging system is used for  
registration and for finding applications (AP1, AP2,  
AP3) and/or monitoring instants (MC).

4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that
- 5 the transmission of the state is ensured by means of a handshake process.
5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
10 characterized in that  
the registration of the application (AP1, AP2, AP3) and the transmission of the state are carried out using an SIP infrastructure and the SIMPLE extension to the SIP protocol.
- 15 6. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
characterized in that  
an application (AP1, AP2, AP3) can be monitored by
- 20 means of any desired number of Presence Applications (PA), and Presence Applications (PA) can monitor any desired number of applications (AP1, AP2, AP3).
7. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
- 25 claims,  
characterized in that  
the monitoring instant (MC) which is associated with an application (AP1, AP2, AP3) to be monitored is automatically registered in the list, or is found and
- 30 registered on the basis of the request by the Presence Application (PA).